

Community Nursery and Landcare

Caring for Kuranda's environment
"by standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before"

Box trailers for hire. Members discount. All plugs catered for
Contact Hans on 0459 978 842 to book.

Weed workshop Update

Our weed workshop was full, and was treated to three tiers of government discussing weeds in our environment. Attendees brought in weed samples they most loved to hate and these were ably identified by our local botanists, Barbara Waterhouse, Mason Campbell and Stephen McKenna from the Federal Dept of Ag, Water and Environment. They joined with Sid Clayton from Mareeba Shire Council and Kim Babcock, State Dept of Ag and Fisheries and were able to cover all aspects of the government approach to weeds of concern and treatments for our most pernicious local weeds. Attendees left with a greater appreciation of our collective responsibility to be alert to weed and weed control, given limited money to apply to seemingly limitless weed incursions. One useful action is to join the Weed Spotters

Network, giving you direct access for reporting and identification of suspected weeds and information on potential risks in your area. Google Weed Spotters network application AND if you have an Android phone you can download the Weed Spotters App.

Left: Weed samples



Weed workshop participants with Barbara Waterhouse



Saturday planting volunteers in March 2021 with Emma Tim and Amy Peters

Volunteers always welcome

Members of the working group for the Kuranda Tree Frog action plan 2018–2023 met last month to complete a mid term review progress and set new priorities for ensuring the survival of this little frog, something not often done with recovery plans, so we are told. We reviewed the environment needed for it, and all of us, to survive. And we don't have much time, things are getting critical in our environment. Over the next few months we'll be talking about next priorities but we wanted to give a big shout out now to the hundreds of people who have joined one of our frog monitoring sessions over the years. We've sent over 500 records covering 11 creeks and 7 years to the Dept of Environment and Science to assist with habitat modelling and stream protection buffers into State government planning frameworks for threatened species. Well done all of you for being a part of this outcome. Ongoing frog and water quality monitoring continues to build up our picture of what is happening over the years with this critically endangered species. For now THANK YOU volunteers!

• Date Claimers •

Water quality monitoring – Kuranda Tree frog creeks – Various dates. No experience needed. Call Neil 0481 310 144 to join in.

Saturdays 7.30–9am. Tree Planting at 67 Monaro Close. Good fun and exercise for all ages. Yummy morning tea. Call 0419 624 940 and meet at the KEC nursery 7.30am to carpool. Call Andrew on 0407 161 175. We'll text you if we're postponing due to weather.

20–27 April. Frog monitoring fun starts after 7pm. Check our Facebook page for dates and sites, call or email on 0419 624 940 or info@envirocare.org.au

Just a few spaces left!

Common Rainforest families and how to identify trees, fruit and flowers
10am–3pm Saturday 27 March

There are 1,800 rainforest trees and shrubs. How to identify one and where to start? A field day learning about common rainforest families and how to identify them and their many members, just enough botanical terms to get you started using the Australian Tropical Rainforest plants. Guiding you with humour is local botanist Dr Bruce Wannan.

Register at info@envirocare.org.au
Funded by Federal Communities Environment Program

We are the invasive resist-ants



Green Forest infestation survey

Wet Tropics Management Authority's field teams completed a yellow crazy ant survey at the Green Forest Road infestation. The survey used a lure on the ground which was left for an hour, and then checked for the absence or presence of yellow crazy ants. No insecticides were used.

Fury, the odour detection dog, with her handler Stuart Biggs, surveyed for yellow crazy ants around one of the residential properties where lures weren't used. No yellow crazy ants were found during the survey, which is great news for Kuranda and Green Forest residents living inside the infestation area. More surveys are required to ensure no yellow crazy ants remain.



Yellow crazy ant lured surveys and detection dog surveys at Green Forest Road March 2021

Extended surveys on Green Forest and Oak Forest roads

As part of extended surveys searching for yellow crazy ants outside the known Green Forest infestation, the Authority's monitoring team has been surveying properties along Green Forest Road since 1 February 2021.

Five properties on Green Forest Road have been surveyed so far. The team is also searching for electric ants as some properties are within an electric ant restriction zone. No yellow crazy ants or electric ants have been detected to date.



L-R: National Electric Ant Eradication Program Mike Greasley, WTMA Lucy Karger, Ciara Bridgland, MSC Mayor Angela Toppin and CEO Peter Franks.

Taskforce joins Wet Tropics Management Authority and Biosecurity Queensland to deliver a yellow crazy and electric ant presentation to Mareeba Shire Council

On 3 February, Taskforce volunteer Tim Brown and I joined the Wet Tropics Management Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program and Biosecurity Queensland's National Electric Ant Eradication Program to deliver a presentation about yellow crazy ants and electric ants to Mareeba Shire Council's Mayor, Councillors and executive staff.

Councillors learned about the impacts of the invasive ants, how both eradication programs are progressing and what Mareeba Shire Council can do to support the eradication of yellow crazy ants and electric ants in the Mareeba Local Government Area.

Councillors were engaged and asked many questions throughout the presentation. They witnessed live electric and yellow crazy ants and video of a yellow crazy ant infestation at high density. The feedback was positive and we received their continued but reinvigorated support for the eradication of both yellow crazy ants and electric ants. Thank you Mareeba Shire Council!

Taskforce website launch event

The Taskforce will host a website launch event in Kuranda on Saturday 27 March. Taskforce volunteers are invited to come and showcase our new Taskforce website to Kuranda locals. An information stall and barbeque will be set up at the front of Kuranda FoodWorks between 10.30am and 12.30pm. The website www.communitytaskforce.org.au will go live on 26 March. Come and say hi and enjoy the free sausages.

Upcoming Activities

April – Kuranda Rocks Easter

The Taskforce will attend KURANDA ROCKS EASTER event this Easter Saturday 3 April from 10:00am. Taskforce volunteers are invited to join me at the Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce information stall. Live yellow crazy ants will be on display.

April – Yellow Crazy Ant presentation with Green Space, Our Space volunteers

On 14 April, the Taskforce will give a yellow crazy ant presentation to Cairns Regional Council's Green Space, Our Place volunteers. If you would like to be involved and talk with other volunteers about yellow crazy ants at the event. Please contact Ciara at coordinator@communitytaskforce.org.au.

May – Yellow Crazy Ant Taskforce (not Community Taskforce)

Wet Tropics Management Authority and Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils are hosting the annual Yellow Crazy Ant Taskforce on 17–21 May 2021. Taskforce volunteers are welcome to come along and participate in surveying for yellow crazy ants in sugarcane farming areas near Cairns. Receive valuable training in survey methods and network with State and local government departments, traditional owners and NRM groups. To get involved contact Ciara at coordinator@communitytaskforce.org.au

Ciara

Join the invasive resist-ants

 Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce
 envirocare.org.au/yellow-crazy-ants-taskforce
 yca.ciara@gmail.com

